

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 AF-10 IO-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 061945Z OCT 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3897

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 2194

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 2970

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS EG IS

SUBJECT: FRENCH EMBASSY VIEWS ON MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

REF: CAIRO 2936 (NOTAL)

1. ON AFTERNOON OCTOBER 6, FRENCH EMBOFF VIGNAL BRIEFED USINTOFF ON VIEWS OF FRENCH EMBASSIES IN TEL AVIV AND CAIRO ON DEVELOPING SITUATION. VIGNAL STATED THAT IT WAS FRENCH EMBASSY CAIRO'S BELIEF THAT INITIAL GOE MILITARY ALERT HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF DEFINITE AND SPECIFIC FEARS THAT MALAISE CORRODING WILL OF EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES THREATENED TO TURN INTO SOME FORM OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT REACTION. SOURCES IN CAIRO FROM WHOM FRENCH HAVE DRAWN THEIR INFORMATION HAVE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT LARGE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE CREATED SENSE OF RESENTMENT AND ANGER THROUGHOUT RANKS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY. TO REINFORCE THIS VIEW, VIGNAL POINTED TO REPORT FROM ALLEGEDLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT ON THURSDAY,

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OCTOBER 4, CRACK PARATROOP BRIGADE HAD BEEN SUDDENLY MOVED

FROM HUCKSTEP CAMP (NEAR CAIRO AIRPORT) TO QENA (NEAR LUXOR). FRENCH EMBASSY CAN FIND NO SUITABLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS MOVE OTHER THAN CREATION OF MOTION FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LEUSSE HAS REPORTED THIS TO PARIS. HE BELIEVES THAT ABOVE IS ADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF INITIAL REASONS FOR ALERT BUT NOT ITS LATEST STAGES, WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED SIMPLY BY NEED FOR GENERAL MILITARY MOVEMENT. DE LEUSSE FEELS THAT EGYPTIANS ARE NOW PREPARING IN REACTION TO BUILD-UP OF SYRIAN/ISRAELI TENSIONS, AND IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK AGAINST SYRIA.

3. VIGNAL ADDED THAT FRENCH EMBASSY TEL AVIV FELT HIGHLY DANGEROUS CONDITION HAD RESULTED FROM FAILURE OF MRS. MEIR TO PERSUADE KRIESKY TO REOPEN TRANSIT CAMP FOR SOVIET JEWS. FRENCH BELIEVE THAT INTENSE REACTION TO THIS IN ISRAEL AND DEEPENING FEELING AMONG ISRAELIS THAT TIDE OF EVENTS WAS MOVING AGAINST THEM HAD CREATED SITUATION IN WHICH ISRAELIS MIGHT DELIBERATELY PROVOKE AN ATTACK AGAINST ARABS.

4. FRENCH EMBASSY CAIRO DOES NOT BELIEVE EGYPTIANS ARE ON OFFENSIVE FOOTING.

5. VIGNAL'S SOURCES WHO HAVE REPORTED ON EGYPTIAN MILITARY MALAISE (PARA 1 ABOVE) DO NOT INCLUDE SOURCE MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTEL. THEY ARE GENERALLY FROM SAME EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTIC CIRCUIT, HOWEVER.
SMITH

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